

TEUTONS CONTINUE DOBRUDJA ADVANCE

Russians, Still Falling Back, Are Near Danube Mouth—Moldavia Line in Peril.

QUIET ON OTHER FRONTS

In France Only Artillery Activity Is Reported by War Offices.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—News to-day from the various battle fronts reported very little fighting.

Gen. Sakharoff's Russian army in the northern Dobrudja has been forced again to retreat and is now very near the mouth of the Danube, the southern boundary of the Russian province of Bessarabia. Berlin reports Petrograd admits that Sakharoff has been forced back by heavy attacks by superior Teutonic forces. Berlin reports the capture of 900 Russians.

Russian infantry drove a Bulgarian force into the icy water of Lake Isola, one of the many lakes in the northern Dobrudja, Petrograd announces. Many Bulgarians were drowned and 115 were captured.

If the Russians do not succeed in making a successful stand in the Dobrudja almost immediately the situation of the forces on the southern boundary of Moldavia will be serious, for their flank will be turned.

Little fighting in Galicia. On the remainder of the Russian front there has been fighting at various points, but not of a decisive character. German troops have raided Russian advanced positions in Galicia, damaging works and making prisoners, and a Russian night attack in the Trous Valley, on the Moldavian western frontier was repulsed by the Teutons.

On the Franco-Belgian front fighting of one kind or another took place at many points from the North Sea to the Vosges. German troops captured a Belgian patrol and Belgian and German guns took part in a lively duel. A German raid on British trenches on the Somme was repulsed and artillery fire rained along the whole British front. The bombardment at the Belgian front and at other points French infantry made several successful raids.

Russians Retreat in Dobrudja. The Russian official statement says: Rumanian front: On the left bank of the Danube active attempts by the enemy to attack us were repulsed by our fire.

In the Dobrudja the enemy with superior forces attacked our detachments along the whole front. After stubborn resistance our detachments commenced to withdraw to the northward.

By a daring attack of one of our regiments the village of Siliștea was advanced to the east of Lake Haba-dagh from the village of Ensal was thrown into Lake Isola and a greater part of our detachments were taken prisoners.

Western front: On the River Stokhol, in the region of the village of Golein, our scouts made a successful reconnaissance, capturing seven Germans.

A satisfactory report has been received from the British military mission in Rumania of the destruction under orders of the Rumanian Government of the oil wells and refineries in and near the principal oil fields.

Berlin Reports Gains. The official report issued by the Berlin War Office says:

Eastern War Theatre. Front of Prince Leopold—Along the Drena and on the Stokhod the Russian artillery fire continued for a long time. An advance of two battalions was arrested east of Riga was repulsed. Northwest of Zolotse (Galicia) German advance troops entered both the most advanced positions of the Russians and the village of Zyzyn and returned after destroying four mine throwers and capturing thirty-four prisoners and two machine guns.

Front of Archduke Joseph—A hostile night attack on Caudemere, north of the Trous Valley, failed.

Army Group of Field Marshal von Mackensen—In Great Wallachia the situation is unchanged.

The Dobrudja army continues to make progress and has taken 900 prisoners from the Russians.

Western Theatre—Near the coast, in the Somme sector and on the east bank of the Meuse, the artillery activity increased during the afternoon hours. On the Yser a Belgian outpost was taken.

The official communication issued by the British War Office says:

Last night (Thursday) the enemy bombarded our front on the south bank of the Ancre. We repulsed an attempted raid opposite the Hohenzollern redoubt. During the day (Friday) considerable artillery activity prevailed on both sides of the Yser. Several surprise attacks which were carried out to the east of St. Mihiel, in the Gereschans wood, at Chapelette, north of Celles (Vosges) and in the Pays Valley, enabled us to destroy small enemy outposts and to bring back some prisoners.

Belgian communication: On the southern portion of the Belgian front the bomb and artillery struggle has been very violent. Outfield and trench batteries silenced the enemy artillery.

BRITISH CAPTURE EL ARISH. Drive Turks From Important Town East of Suez Canal.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—El Arish, ninety miles east of the Suez Canal, was captured yesterday by the British. The British official statement says:

"Yesterday the Egyptian town of El Arish was occupied by our troops after being for two years in the hands of the enemy. From the fact that the enemy had constructed a very strong entrenched position covering El Arish and that a large amount of work recently had been carried out there it appeared that the enemy had every intention of offering a stubborn resistance.

"They abandoned their positions on Tuesday night and retreated to the east and to the southward. It is a serious blow to the Turks from a moral and a military point of view.

El Arish is a fortified town of Egypt on the Mediterranean near the frontier of Palestine, in territory which had been held by the Turks since the time of their invasion of Egypt and unsuccessful attack on the Suez Canal.

Alfred C. Bedford.



Successor to the late John D. Archbold as president of the Standard Oil Company.

DEPORTED BELGIANS INCLUDED WORKERS

Official Report Refutes German Assertion Of Unemployed Were Taken.

HAVRE, Dec. 22.—Specific details of the deportations of Belgians, refuting the reports from Berlin that only those without work were deported, were communicated to the Associated Press today by Fernand Passelec, director of the documentary bureau of the Belgian War Ministry.

"The German pretension that errors in judging the social condition of those deported were involuntary and innocent, concerning the men were employed or not. The offer was refused.

"Forty-six men, all regularly employed at the Baume-Marpent rolling mills at Haine St. Pierre, were taken. From the list of the town offered to give proofs concerning whether the men were employed or not. The offer was refused.

"From the Compagnie Centrale de Construction at Haine St. Pierre twenty-five workmen were taken. From the list of the town offered to give proofs concerning whether the men were employed or not. The offer was refused.

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A. C. BEDFORD IS NEW STANDARD OIL HEAD

Successor of Late John D. Archbold Was Favored by Latter for His Place.

ELECTED BY DIRECTORS

Brooklyn Man, 52 Years Old, Climbed From Lowest Rung of Ladder.

Alfred Coffin Bedford was elected president of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey by the directors in a special meeting yesterday. In promoting him from the vice-presidency and treasurer-ship they followed both their own inclinations and the expressed desire of the late John D. Archbold, whom Mr. Bedford succeeds. It had been expected for several years that Mr. Bedford would follow Mr. Archbold as head of the corporation.

As is the rule with Standard Oil executives, Mr. Bedford has climbed by dint of hard work and ability from the lowest rungs of the ladder. The Bedfords are known as "a Standard Oil family," but each of them who has attained prominence in the affairs of the Standard Oil family has done so by his own merit and intelligent devotion to the business.

The new president is 52 years old. He was born in Brooklyn, attended Adelphi College and then studied in England, Germany and Switzerland. At the age of 18 he got his first job—a small position with the Bergen Talc Chemical Company, a Standard Oil subsidiary.

Rise Is Steady and Rapid. A few years later he became general manager of Charles Pratt & Co. His rise was steady and rapid, but attracted no public notice until 1907, when he entered the directorate of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

In 1911 the thirty-four Standard Oil companies were separated by Government decree. John D. Rockefeller resigned from the presidency of the parent concern, John D. Archbold took his place and, in the reorganization, Mr. Bedford was made treasurer and one of the three vice-presidents.

Many persons outside of the company had never heard of him, but he enjoyed to a rare degree the confidence of Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Archbold. He was no trouble in proving his right to sit with the other high executives at the "head table" in the luncheon on the fifteenth floor of the Standard Oil Building at 26 Broadway.

He Is a Thorough Democrat. Upon the death of James A. Moffett he became first vice-president and in recent years he has, next to Mr. Archbold, been the most active figure in the management of the company's affairs. His election to the presidency was considered as a matter of course in Wall Street when Mr. Archbold died. Among other traits which make him extremely popular is his thorough democracy.

He is a nephew of Edward T. Bedford, president of the Corn Products Refining Company and one of the early members of the Standard Oil group, who resigned from the directorate of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey in 1911. Other members of the family are Frederick H. Bedford, a vice-president of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey; Fred T. Bedford, treasurer of the Corn Products Refining Company; and Charles E. Bedford, head of the foreign and domestic marine oil department of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

Owns Sixteen Shares of Stock. Alfred C. Bedford is listed as owning only sixteen shares of Standard Oil stock, worth \$12,000. He is president of the Self-Winding Clock Company and a director of the Electric Bond and Share Company, the Portland Railway, Light and Power Company and the Thrift of Brooklyn.

He is chairman of the board of trustees of Emanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn and is identified with the Y. M. C. A. and the work of Pratt Institute. His clubs are the Metropolitan, the Bankers, the Riding and Driving and the Downtown Association of Manhattan; the Rembrandt and the Twentieth Century clubs of Brooklyn; the Piping Rock and Nassau country clubs, Long Island, and the Duquesne Club of Pittsburgh.

He married Miss Edith Kinsman Clarke of Brooklyn in January, 1896. They have two sons. The Bedford home is at 410 Clinton avenue, Brooklyn.

Fieldsteel & Co. Said to Owe \$100,000 to Several Hundred Women and Men.

Books Not in the Office. Trouble Laid to Slump in the Stock Market—Involuntary Petition Filed.

When a number of men and women who have been trading in stocks on the New York Curb went to the office of Fieldsteel & Co., to Broad street, yesterday to settle their accounts and place further orders they found the office door locked.

Several of them got together during the day, engaged a lawyer, and at five minutes to 4 o'clock in the afternoon filed an involuntary petition in bankruptcy against Fieldsteel & Co. and Charles N. Fieldsteel individually. It is their general contention in the court proceedings that customers have credits of \$100,000 with the firm and that the assets are but \$100.

The petitioning creditors are William U. Werner, who claims a debt of \$5,000; Isaac Yonofsky, with a claim of \$1,000; and Jacob D. Sacka, with a claim of \$500.

Arthur Leonard Rosenberg, 100 Broadway, attorney for the creditors, said he attempted to find some assets of Fieldsteel & Co., but that all he could find was some second hand office furniture at 50 Broad street. He said the books of the company had been removed and added:

"Fieldsteel was head over heels in stocks and when the market started slumping he just naturally lost everything he had. We have found out that on Thursday morning, when the market was going down rapidly, he borrowed several thousand dollars from his customers.

Orders Not Filled. "We have found, too, that many orders placed with the company were unfilled in any market. He just took the customers' money and took a chance on the market going down. We have named several petitioning creditors, but they do not cover all of them by any means, nor the total for each creditor. We believe that \$100,000 due several hundred men and women customers of this curb firm is a conservative estimate."

The attorney said he would apply today to United States Commissioner A. L. Glick, Jr., for an order to examine Fieldsteel, his brother, Charles; L. De Forrest, cashier; Herman S. Oster, and Otto A. Glasseberg, formerly his attorney, as to the affairs of the firm. "The creditors are angry and are determined to go to the bottom of this affair," said Mr. Rosenberg. "It is going to be a severe test for them."

Alfred J. Talley, attorney at 165 Broadway, who has been retained by Fieldsteel & Co., said he would produce his client in court at any time. "This rumor that Mr. Fieldsteel has 'skipped' with a lot of money is all nonsense," he said. "Rumors about the concern have been circulated downtown for some time by Mr. Fieldsteel's enemies. They come to his customers. His creditors became excited at these rumors and all came in for their money at the same time. There is not a brokerage house in New York that could pay off all its customers' claims for their balances at the same time."

Fieldsteel in City. Mr. Talley said Fieldsteel is in New York, but he could not say whether he is solvent, nor did he know, he said, where the books of the firm are now located.

The cashier of the firm spent a few hours outside of 50 Broad street yesterday afternoon, but could not get into the office as he had no key. He consulted the creditors as they appeared to rattle the door. "I know Charles has not run away," he said. "I know he is dicker with a prominent banker now to straighten up this whole thing."

"What was the reason for closing the doors?" he was asked.

"Well, Charles was just head over heels in stocks and long at that. They went down and he couldn't help himself."

"How much would you estimate is due his customers?"

"Oh, I should say between \$40,000 and \$50,000 would cover the whole thing."

The firm has been in business two years, and formerly maintained an office in Boston. This is said to have been closed recently. It has been identified

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U. S. HUMILIATED BY NOTE, SAYS PERKINS

President's Letter Breathes Hypocrisy, Lansing's Statement Incompetency.

ABOUT \$200,000 INVOLVED

Dispute Due to Certain Provisions of the Parent's Seventh Will.

George W. Perkins said yesterday that President Wilson's note breathes hypocrisy, while the statements of Secretary Lansing breathe incompetency. The three documents have filled the American cup of humiliation full to overflowing, said Mr. Perkins.

His statement follows: "Why ask me what I think of the performance of the President and the Secretary of State during the last forty-eight hours, when any schoolboy ought to have enough intelligence and patriotism to blush with shame at their actions?"

"In the first place the President's letter was weak and pointless and offered a realizable insult to the Allies when he said, 'Each side desires to make the rights and privileges of weak people and smaller States secure.' The letter breathes every indication of having been written for the sole purpose of hitting into a situation. No wonder London prevented the publication of the note on its receipt."

"When I read the statement Mr. Lansing issued at noon yesterday I could scarcely believe my eyes. It bears all the earmarks of a man who is rattled and incompetent. Within six or eight hours he practically took back his first statement by issuing a second one, in which he said he did not intend to interfere with any change in its policy of neutrality, and added, 'I regret that my words were open to any other construction, as I now realize that they were.' Imagine our Secretary of State saying to the entire civilized world that he did not realize the meaning of words he had used in an important pronouncement until the meaning was pointed out to him by others. It would be hard to find a more marked instance of incompetency than this."

"Mr. Wilson's note breathes hypocrisy. Mr. Lansing's statements breathe incompetency. Imagine the United States of America standing before the world at this great hour of peril and crisis, represented by two such men. Surely our cup of humiliation is full to overflowing."

Queens Election Jan. 23. ALBANY, Dec. 22.—An order fixing January 23 as the date for a special election in the office of Sheriff was issued today by Whitman today. The vacancy was caused by the death of Sheriff Paul Wier, who was shot when attempting to make an arrest October 23 last.

Appeal to the Courts. Warner M. Van Norden offered to attend to the settlement of the estate of his brother and sister would refuse to qualify as executors. They not only rejected this proposal, but started suits against both Warner and his wife. They lost the action against Mrs. Van Norden.

Enable a Bank to Reopen. Just prior to the panic of 1907 Warner Van Norden, Sr., bought from Charles W. Morse the control of the Nineteenth National Bank of Harlem. The strain of the panic was too much for this concern, which closed its doors temporarily. Then Warner Van Norden, the son, according to statements made since the dispute among the children began, advanced \$900,000 from his own pocket, enabling the bank to reopen.

This, Warner Montague Van Norden says, was only the first of many demands made upon him. He asserts that to protect his father's realty holdings in the Dyckman tract and in Thirty-fourth street he gave \$2,000,000, added the business of the bank and the trust company, then existing, by transferring more than \$3,000,000 from his private account, and gave his father more than \$1,000,000 in cash, real estate and securities when these institutions were sold.

Father and son had entered into an agreement, the latter says, in which the senior Van Norden stipulated the wording of his will and promised never to alter it. When the last will was filed in 1914 Warner M. Van Norden was surprised to find that his brother and sister had been named as executors and that the father had entered a claim of \$400,000 against him, which he was directed to pay to the estate "if he can." This amount was to be divided between the sister and brother. Little remained of the estate besides this.

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VAN NORDEN FAMILY FEUD IS SETTLED

Warner